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Committee CDEM Group
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Group (CEG)

CDEM Group Sewage Disposal Guidelines

1. Purpose

To seek CDEM Group approval for the Wellington region CDEM Group Sewage Disposal Guidelines.

2. Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG)

At its meeting on 6 October 2008, CEG endorsed the recommendations in this report and requested that a timetable be prepared for the development of sewage disposal plans.

3. Background

The lack of sanitation facilities following a major disaster can quickly create secondary problems unless basic guidelines are followed.

More often than not, water supplies are contaminated during a disaster. This poses a problem for not only drinking purposes, but also for safe and adequate hygiene and sanitation purposes as well. Water must be sanitized to be safe and free from contaminants that could cause illness and even death. When there is no water supply there most probably also will be no toilet system that will work.

Many times during a disaster people are not only left with contaminated water, but also they may not even have access to any running water. Faucets run dry, and toilets will not flush. It is imperative that human waste be disposed of properly, so as to keep an area free of contamination.

It is therefore important to plan ahead and be prepared. We need to consider the type of hazard(s) for which our businesses are most vulnerable and take precautions to minimize the impact of such occurrences.

This Guideline is designed to provide guidance in the development of emergency procedures for the disposal of sewage during and after disasters. Territorial Authorities (TAs) can use the checklists and resources in this document to develop their own procedures that will meet the needs of their specific organisation.

The Wellington region CDEM Group Sewage Disposal Guidelines is attached as *Attachment 1*.

4. Project summary

This Guideline is the first of its kind in New Zealand.

It has been developed in a format that allows it to be used in two ways:

1. As a reference document and an example of good practice for emergency sewage disposal planning.
2. As a guide that can be utilised by TAs in the preparation of their emergency sewage disposal plans.

The guide has been separated into three distinct parts - initial, mid-term and long-term. The long-term response section will be leading into the recovery phase.

5. Conclusion

Sewage disposal is a very important part of the response phase during and after a major disaster. The development of sewage disposal arrangements (for inclusion into Standard Operating Procedures) at the local level should be a high priority.

This guideline (with checklists and other handy tools), used effectively, will give TAs the starting point they will need to develop effective and efficient sewage disposal procedures.

6. Recommendations

That the CDEM Group:

1. **approves** the Wellington region CDEM Group Sewage Disposal Guidelines; *and*
2. **requests** the territorial authorities in the region to use the CDEM Group Sewage Disposal Guidelines to develop their own sewage disposal plans.

Report prepared by:

Dr Roger Blakeley
Chair Co-ordinating Executive Group
(CEG)

Attachment 1: Wellington Region CDEM Group Sewage Disposal Guidelines